



*You Are Why We Are Here*

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
March 28, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

**BOC:** Chairman Jeff Jacques  
District 1 Commissioner Robert Franklin  
District 2 Commissioner Kyle Foster  
District 3 Commissioner Elizabeth Busby  
District 4 Commissioner Josh Smith

**Media:** Shane Scoggins, Franklin County Citizen Leader

**Staff:** County Manager, Derrick Turner  
Planning & Zoning Director/Asst. County Manager, Robert Ogburn  
County Clerk -Jane Brown

**Item 1:** **Call meeting to order** - Chairman Jacques called the meeting to order

**Item 2:** **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Chairman Jacques led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

**Item 3:** **Approval of the Agenda** - Commissioner Foster motioned to approve the Agenda as written; Commissioner Busby seconded the motion. All were in favor, 5-0. No discussion.

**Item 4:** **Public Comment:**

- a. **Alan Martin** - 2656 Brays Lake RD, Royston - In February, Mr. Martin challenged the BOC to provide an accounting of where IBA funds go. He thanked the Chairman for making it happen. On February 27 he met with Lee Moore and he was given a copy of the financial statement. Every question he asked was answered in a pleasant, straightforward manner. Per Chairman Jacques, the data was a collaborative effort by all of the Board members.
- b. **Harold Kilgore** - 318 Jim Grizzle RD, Royston - Since 2018, citizen of county. Have built 10 houses in several different counties since his marriage; before now, has had no problems with permits. Met with Mr. Matt - very pleasurable. Applied over two months ago, still no building permit - was told that now he has to go through a computer



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on a portal - He is old school - he doesn't text - he doesn't have a smart phone. He asked Amanda for help - she closed the window and turned back on him after saying she couldn't help him. He just can't do it - cannot figure out that portal. Commissioner. Smith directed him to come see Mr. Derrick - very pleasurable. Issue with e-mail - how to access it. He can tell him what it is, but he couldn't access it. He wanted to pay with a check - was advised to use a credit card. Still don't have a building permit, He needs to know what status is on building his home. Really want to build a house in Franklin County - has three different lots - but just can't get a permit - don't understand why he has to use credit card; he has always used cash. Consulting Company charged him \$500 - the representative from that company said he won't do business with Franklin County anymore - is just too much of a hassle.

- c. **Jason Boyce** - Carnesville - First off, he wanted to thank the BOC for posting Agenda on website - years ago that didn't happen - he found out that county is building a water plant behind the Flying J on Exit 160. State of Georgia sending out flyers about building a bridge on 106. Why no similar advance notice/queries from county. No jobs because we cancelled a rendering plant. Why are citizens not notified. He offered to help - just ask him. Bottom line, it's getting better-

### **Items for Discussion:**

- a. BOC IBA Appointments - Terry Bennett and John Hilton's terms expired in 2022. Recommend take immediate action and reappoint and extend their terms until end of June 2023; vote to be taken at Regular Meeting on April 3. Staff to advertise for both positions. No comments from Commissioners. Commissioner Foster has spoken with both members.
- b. Planning Commission Appointment Discussion - major carryover item from previous Board - The Planning Commission is comprised of five members, with ordinances stating one member from each District and one at-large member. Currently we have three District 3 and two in District 1. Three of the current members have gone well beyond their term. We need to direct staff to advertise so that we





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have 1 in each District and one at-large. Commissioner Busby's only concern is that we are ultimately losing three members. Ragsdale (District 3) Tate (District 1) Chairman recommends reappointment of Coker and Russell to June 30, 2023; immediately advertise for District 2 and District 4 and one at-large position.

- c. Permits & Inspection Ordinance Update - have met with Commissioner Smith twice, rectifying on-site issues; pressing forward with structural changes to permitting inspections, reduce regulations and costs, giving county residents easier and more cost-effective options - hope to have more updates at April Work Session.
- d. UDC Committee Results -large packet/summary of Committee studies re: UDC. Great deal of frustration and lack of understanding. Agricultural owners don't feel protected. Corporate development isn't happening. Change is legal, not necessarily right. Needs transparency; much public comment already. Obviously, everything can't be resolved in a short time. (See UDC Reform Committee Board of Commissioners Update dated March 28, 2023)
- e. Royston Water MOU = County Manager spoke - agreement similar to that we have with the City of Lavonia. Excited about Agreement - total timeframe construction to be completed: 2025. Will be applying for additional grants
- f. BOC Healthcare/Retirement Benefits - Commissioner Smith spoke = add all elected officials to healthcare/retirement benefits. Right now Commissioners don't receive benefits. No Commission Board has given themselves a pay raise. All elected officials in county need to have option to partake of benefits. County coroner has no benefits. This Commission is way different from any Commission in the past; much more done on a 24-hour basis. Can't hold a full-time job. Chairman is only one on Board with full-time job. This is more a benefit subject rather than a pay issue. Really more of a benefits question, rather than a retirement benefit question. Commissioner Foster could not vote to give himself a raise. Commissioner Franklin always thought it was a full-time job; was informed it is a part-time job. When he gets a call, even in the middle of the night, he goes to check on it. Chairman said he could not vote any kind of benefit



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while he is on board. Chairman Smith would like for it to be effective July 1, or open enrollment period.

**Item 5: Announcements** -- County Manager introduced a new hire - Mr. Robert Ogburn - Planning and Zoning Director

**Item 6: Adjourn** - Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Busby; Motion seconded by Commissioner Foster 5-0 affirmative vote by Board.


Signed on the 4th day of December, 2023

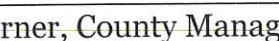
  
Chairman Jeff Jacques

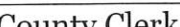
  
Robert L. Franklin, District 1 Commissioner

  
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